

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A temporary window covering comprising:
 - 2 a pleated cover formed from a sheet of material having a plurality of
horizontal creases extending across the width of the sheet thereby defining a plurality
4 of pleats, the pleated cover being adapted to be oriented in a retracted position
wherein each of the pleats is substantially horizontally aligned and in contact with the
6 adjacent pleats, an extended position wherein each of the pleats is substantially
vertical and substantially vertically aligned with the other pleats, and a plurality of
8 intermediate positions wherein at least some of the pleats are oriented between the
pleats' retracted positions and the pleats' extended positions; and
 - 10 a bottom rail attached to a bottommost pleat of the pleated cover, the bottom
rail being adapted to be configured in a first position wherein the bottom rail encircles
12 the pleated cover to prevent the covering from being extended to the extended
position, and a second position wherein the bottom rail does not encircle the pleated
14 cover such that the pleated cover may be extend to the extended position and to
intermediate positions.
2. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 1, wherein the
2 bottom rail comprises:
 - 4 a first side having a first edge, a second edge, and a first surface attached to
the bottommost pleat of the pleated cover;
 - 6 a second side having a first edge connected to the second edge of the first side,
and a second edge;
 - 8 a third side having a first edge connected to the second edge of the second
side, and a second edge; and
 - 10 a fourth side having a first edge connected to the second edge of the third side,
and a second edge,
- 12 wherein the first side, the second side, the third side and the fourth side form a
tube encircling the pleated cover when the pleated cover is in the retracted position
and the bottom rail is disposed in the first position.

3. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 2, wherein a first
2 surface of the fourth side is attached to a second surface of the first side when the
bottom rail is disposed in the second position such that the first, second, third and
4 fourth sides define an elongated tube having a triangular cross-section.

4. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 2, comprising:
2 a top rail attached to a topmost pleat of the pleated cover; and
a cord having a first end connected to the top rail,
4 wherein the bottom rail has a slot disposed through a surface of the bottom
rail, the slot being adapted to receive the cord, and at least a portion of the slot having
6 a width less than the thickness of the cord such that the slot engages the cord to
support the weight of the bottom rail and an accumulated portion of the pleated cover
8 when the cord is engaged by the at least a portion of the slot.

5. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 4, wherein each pleat
2 has a hole therethrough, with the cord being threaded through the holes of the pleats.

6. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 4, wherein the first
2 side has a first hole therethrough, wherein one of the second and the third sides has a
second hole therethrough, wherein the slot is disposed through the second and the
4 third sides proximate the second edge of the second side and the first edge of the third
side, and wherein the cord is threaded through the first hole and the second hole such
6 that the bottom rail and the accumulated portion of the pleated cover are supported
when a portion of the free end of the cord extending through the second hole is
8 disposed in the at least a portion of the slot

7. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 4, wherein the first
2 side has a first hole therethrough, wherein the slot is disposed through at least one of
the second and the third sides, the slot having an opening having a width greater than
4 the thickness of the cord such that the cord may pass through the opening of the slot,
and wherein the cord is threaded through the first hole and the opening of the slot
6 such that the bottom rail and the accumulated portion of the pleated cover are
supported when a portion of the free end of the cord extending through the opening of
8 the slot is disposed into the at least a portion of the slot having the width less than the
thickness of the cord.

8. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 7, wherein the slot
2 has a first narrow portion having a width less than the thickness of the cord and a
second narrow portion having a width less than the thickness of the cord, wherein the
4 first and second narrow portions are disposed on opposite sides of the opening of the
slot.

9. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 4, wherein the slot is
2 disposed through the second and the third sides proximate the second edge of the
second side and the first edge of the third side.

10. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 4, wherein the first
2 side has a first hole therethrough, one of the second and the third sides has a second
hole therethrough, and the fourth side has a third hole therethrough, wherein a free
4 end of the cord opposite the first end is threaded through the first hole, then through
the third hole, and then through the second hole.

11. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 4, wherein the first
2 side has a first hole therethrough, one of the second and the third sides has a second
hole therethrough, and the fourth side has a cut-out portion proximate the second edge
4 of the fourth side, wherein a free end of the cord opposite the first end is threaded
through the first hole and the second hole, and wherein a portion of the cord disposed
6 between the first hole and the second hole is disposed outside out of the cut-out
portion when the bottom rail is in the first position, and is disposed within the cut-out
8 portion when the bottom rail is reconfigured from the first position to the second
position.

12. A temporary window shade according to claim 4, wherein the bottom
2 rail has a first notch having a first inner edge in the second and third sides proximate
the second edge of the second side and the first edge of the third side, and a second
4 notch having a second inner edge in the second and third sides proximate the second
edge of the second side and the first edge of the third side, wherein the first inner edge
6 is disposed on the side of the notch proximate the second notch and the second inner
edge is disposed on the side of the notch proximate the first notch, the first and second
8 inner edges being adapted to have a portion of a free end of the cord extending
beyond the slot wrapped around the first and the second inner edges of the first and
10 second notches, respectively.

13. A temporary window shade according to claim 12, wherein the first
2 inner edge is angled inwardly toward the second notch as the first inner edge proceeds
from the second edge of the second side and the first edge of the third side toward the
4 first edge of the second side and the second edge of the third side, and wherein the
second inner edge is angled inwardly toward the first notch as the second inner edge
6 proceeds from the second edge of the second side and the first edge of the third side
toward the first edge of the second side and the second edge of the third side.

14. A temporary window shade according to claim 2, wherein the first,
2 second, third and fourth sides are fabricated from a single unitary piece of material
having a first crease defining the second edge of the first side and the first edge of the
4 second side, a second crease defining the second edge of the second side and the first
edge of the third side, and a third crease defining the second edge of the third side and
6 the first edge of the fourth side.

15. A temporary window shade according to claim 1, comprising at least
2 one band disposed on an outside surface of the bottom rail when the bottom rail is in
the first position to retain the bottom rail in the first position, wherein the bottom rail
4 is adapted to be moveable between the first position and the second position when the
at least one band is not disposed on the outside surface of the bottom rail.

16. A temporary window covering comprising:
2 an elongated cover having a top end and a bottom end, the elongated cover
being adapted to be oriented in a retracted position, an extended position, and a
4 plurality of intermediate positions; and
a bottom rail attached to the bottom end of the elongated cover, the bottom rail
6 being adapted to be configured in a first position wherein the bottom rail encircles the
elongated cover to prevent the elongated cover from being extended to the extended
8 position, and a second position wherein the bottom rail does not encircle the elongated
cover such that the elongated cover may be extend to the extended position and to
10 intermediate positions.

17. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 16, wherein the
2 bottom rail comprises:

a first side having a first edge, a second edge, and a first surface attached to
4 the bottom end of the elongated cover;

a second side having a first edge connected to the second edge of the first side,
6 and a second edge;

a third side having a first edge connected to the second edge of the second
8 side, and a second edge; and

a fourth side having a first edge connected to the second edge of the third side,
10 and a second edge,

wherein the first side, the second side, the third side and the fourth side form a
12 tube encircling the elongated cover when the elongated cover is in the retracted
position and the bottom rail is disposed in the first position.

18. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 17, wherein a first
2 surface of the fourth side is attached to a second surface of the first side when the
bottom rail is disposed in the second position such that the first, second, third and
4 fourth sides define an elongated tube having a triangular cross-section.

19. A temporary window shade according to claim 17, wherein the first,
2 second, third and fourth sides are fabricated from a single unitary piece of material
having a first crease defining the second edge of the first side and the first edge of the
4 second side, a second crease defining the second edge of the second side and the first
edge of the third side, and a third crease defining the second edge of the third side and
6 the first edge of the fourth side.

20. A temporary window shade according to claim 16, comprising at least
2 one band disposed on an outside surface of the bottom rail when the bottom rail is in
the first position to retain the bottom rail in the first position, wherein the bottom rail
4 is adapted to be moveable between the first position and the second position when the
at least one band is not disposed on the outside surface of the bottom rail.

21. A temporary window shade according to claim 16, wherein the
2 elongated cover has first and second outer edges on opposite sides of the elongated
cover, and wherein the bottom rail comprises at least one tab extending outwardly
4 beyond a corresponding one of the first and second outer edges, the at least one tab
being adapted to be disposed over the corresponding one of the first and second outer
6 edges to enclose the one of the first and second outer edges within the bottom rail
when the bottom rail is configured in the first position.

22. A temporary window shade according to claim 16, wherein the
2 elongated cover has first and second outer edges on opposite sides of the elongated
cover, and wherein the bottom rail comprises a tab having a hole therethrough
4 extending outwardly beyond a corresponding one of the first and second outer edges.

23. A temporary window shade, comprising:
2 an elongated cover having a top end and a bottom end, the elongated cover
being adapted to be oriented in a retracted position, an extended position, and a
4 plurality of intermediate positions;
a top rail attached to the top end of the elongated cover;
6 a cord having a first end connected to the top rail; and
a bottom rail attached to the bottom end of the elongated cover, wherein the
8 bottom rail has a slot disposed through a surface of the bottom rail, the slot being
adapted to receive the cord, and at least a portion of the slot having a width less than
10 the thickness of the cord such that the slot engages the cord to support the weight of
the bottom rail and an accumulated portion of the elongated cover when the cord is
12 engaged by the at least a portion of the slot.

24. A temporary window shade as recited in claim 23, wherein the
2 elongated cover comprises a pleated cover formed from a sheet of material having a
plurality of horizontal creases extending across the width of the sheet thereby defining
4 a plurality of pleats, the pleated cover being adapted to be oriented in the retracted
position wherein each of the pleats is substantially horizontally aligned and in contact
6 with the adjacent pleats, the extended position wherein each of the pleats is
substantially vertical and substantially vertically aligned with the other pleats, and a
8 plurality of intermediate positions wherein at least some of the pleats are oriented
between the pleats' retracted positions and the pleats' extended positions, and wherein
10 the top rail is attached to a topmost pleat of the pleated cover and the bottom rail is
attached to a bottommost pleat of the pleated cover.

25. A temporary window shade as recited in claim 24, wherein each pleat
2 has a hole therethrough, with the cord being threaded through the holes of the pleats.

26. A temporary window shade as recited in claim 23, wherein the bottom
2 rail has a first hole and a second hole therethrough, and wherein the cord is threaded
through the first hole and the second hole such that the bottom rail and an
4 accumulated portion of the elongated cover are supported by the cord when a portion
of the free end of the cord extending through the second hole is disposed in the at
6 least a portion of the slot.

27. A temporary window shade as recited in claim 23, wherein the bottom
2 rail has a first hole therethrough, wherein the slot has an opening having a width
greater than the thickness of the cord such that the cord may pass through the opening
4 of the slot, and wherein the cord is threaded through the first hole and the opening of
the slot such that the bottom rail and an accumulated portion of the pleated cover are
6 supported by the cord when a portion of the free end of the cord extending through the
opening of the slot is disposed into the at least a portion of the slot having the width
8 less than the thickness of the cord.

28. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 27, wherein the slot
2 has a first narrow portion having a width less than the thickness of the cord and a
second narrow portion having a width less than the thickness of the cord, wherein the
4 first and second narrow portions are disposed on opposite sides of the opening of the
slot.

29. A temporary window shade according to claim 23, wherein the bottom
2 rail has a first notch having a first inner edge and a second notch having a second
inner edge, wherein the first inner edge is disposed on the side of the first notch
4 proximate the second notch and the second inner edge is disposed on the side of the
second notch proximate the first notch, the first and second inner edges being adapted
6 to have a portion of a free end of the cord extending beyond the slot wrapped around
the first and the second inner edges of the first and second notches, respectively.

30. A temporary window shade according to claim 29, wherein the first
2 inner edge is angled inwardly toward the second notch and the second inner edge is
angled inwardly toward the first notch.

31. A temporary window shade according to claim 23, wherein the bottom
2 rail is adapted to be configured in a first position wherein the bottom rail encircles the
elongated cover to prevent the elongated cover from being extended to the extended
4 position, and a second position wherein the bottom rail does not encircle the elongated
cover such that the elongated cover may be extend to the extended position and to
6 intermediate positions.

32. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 31, wherein the
2 bottom rail comprises:

a first side having a first edge, a second edge, and a first surface attached to
4 the bottom end of the elongated cover;

a second side having a first edge connected to the second edge of the first side,
6 and a second edge;

a third side having a first edge connected to the second edge of the second
8 side, and a second edge; and

a fourth side having a first edge connected to the second edge of the third side,
10 and a second edge,

wherein the first side, the second side, the third side and the fourth side form a
12 tube encircling the elongated cover when the elongated cover is in the retracted
position and the bottom rail is disposed in the first position.

33. A temporary window shade according to claim 32, wherein a first
2 surface of the fourth side is attached to a second surface of the first side when the
bottom rail is disposed in the second position such that the first, second, third and
4 fourth sides define an elongated tube having a triangular cross-section.

34. A temporary window shade according to claim 32, wherein the first,
2 second, third and fourth sides are fabricated from a single unitary piece of material
having a first crease defining the second edge of the first side and the first edge of the
4 second side, a second crease defining the second edge of the second side and the first
edge of the third side, and a third crease defining the second edge of the third side and
6 the first edge of the fourth side.

35. A temporary window shade according to claim 31, comprising at least
2 one band disposed on an outside surface of the bottom rail when the bottom rail is in
the first position to retain the bottom rail in the first position, wherein the bottom rail
4 is adapted to be moveable between the first position and the second position when the
at least one band is not disposed on the outside surface of the bottom rail.

36. A temporary window shade, comprising:
2 a pleated cover formed from a sheet of material having a plurality of
horizontal creases extending across the width of the sheet thereby defining a plurality
4 of pleats, with each pleat having a hole therethrough, the pleated cover being adapted
to be oriented in a retracted position wherein each of the pleats is substantially
6 horizontally aligned and in contact with the adjacent pleats, an extended position
wherein each of the pleats is substantially vertical and substantially vertically aligned
8 with the other pleats, and a plurality of intermediate positions wherein at least some of
the pleats are oriented between the pleats' retracted positions and the pleats' extended
10 positions;
a top rail attached to a topmost pleat of the pleated cover;
12 a cord having a first end connected to the top rail, with the cord being threaded
through the holes of the pleats of the pleated cover; and
14 a bottom rail attached to a bottommost pleat of the pleated cover, wherein the
bottom rail has a slot disposed through a surface of the bottom rail, the slot being
16 adapted to receive the cord, and at least a portion of the slot having a width less than
the thickness of the cord such that the slot engages the cord to support the weight of
18 the bottom rail and an accumulated portion of the elongated cover when the cord is
engaged by the at least a portion of the slot.

37. A temporary window shade as recited in claim 36, wherein the bottom
2 rail has a first hole and a second hole therethrough, and wherein the cord is threaded
through the first hole and the second hole such that the bottom rail and an
4 accumulated portion of the pleated cover are supported by the cord when a portion of
the free end of the cord extending through the second hole is disposed in the at least a
6 portion of the slot.

38. A temporary window shade as recited in claim 36, wherein the bottom
2 rail has a first hole therethrough, wherein the slot has an opening having a width
greater than the thickness of the cord such that the cord may pass through the opening
4 of the slot, and wherein the cord is threaded through the first hole and the opening of
the slot such that the bottom rail and an accumulated portion of the pleated cover are
6 supported by the cord when a portion of the free end of the cord extending through the
opening of the slot is disposed into the at least a portion of the slot having the width
8 less than the thickness of the cord.

39. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 38, wherein the slot
2 has a first narrow portion having a width less than the thickness of the cord and a
second narrow portion having a width less than the thickness of the cord, wherein the
4 first and second narrow portions are disposed on opposite sides of the opening of the
slot.

40. A temporary window shade according to claim 36, wherein the bottom
2 rail has a first notch having a first inner edge and a second notch having a second
inner edge, wherein the first inner edge is disposed on the side of the first notch
4 proximate the second notch and the second inner edge is disposed on the side of the
second notch proximate the first notch, the first and second inner edges being adapted
6 to have a portion of a free end of the cord extending beyond the slot wrapped around
the first and the second inner edges of the first and second notches, respectively.

41. A temporary window shade according to claim 40, wherein the first
2 inner edge is angled inwardly toward the second notch and the second inner edge is
angled inwardly toward the first notch.

42. A temporary window shade according to claim 36, wherein the bottom
2 rail is adapted to be configured in a first position wherein the bottom rail encircles the
pleated cover to prevent the elongated cover from being extended to the extended
4 position, and a second position wherein the bottom rail does not encircle the pleated
cover such that the pleated cover may be extend to the extended position and to
6 intermediate positions.

43. A temporary window covering as recited in claim 42, wherein the
2 bottom rail comprises:

a first side having a first edge, a second edge, and a first surface attached to
4 the bottom end of the pleated cover;

a second side having a first edge connected to the second edge of the first side,
6 and a second edge;

a third side having a first edge connected to the second edge of the second
8 side, and a second edge; and

a fourth side having a first edge connected to the second edge of the third side,
10 and a second edge,

wherein the first side, the second side, the third side and the fourth side form a
12 tube encircling the pleated cover when the pleated cover is in the retracted position
and the bottom rail is disposed in the first position.

44. A temporary window shade according to claim 43, wherein a first
2 surface of the fourth side is attached to a second surface of the first side when the
bottom rail is disposed in the second position such that the first, second, third and
4 fourth sides define an pleated tube having a triangular cross-section.

45. A temporary window shade according to claim 43, wherein the first,
2 second, third and fourth sides are fabricated from a single unitary piece of material
having a first crease defining the second edge of the first side and the first edge of the
4 second side, a second crease defining the second edge of the second side and the first
edge of the third side, and a third crease defining the second edge of the third side and
6 the first edge of the fourth side.

46. A temporary window shade according to claim 42, comprising at least
2 one band disposed on an outside surface of the bottom rail when the bottom rail is in
the first position to retain the bottom rail in the first position, wherein the bottom rail
4 is adapted to be moveable between the first position and the second position when the
at least one band is not disposed on the outside surface of the bottom rail.